

REMARKS

The specification is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. In particular, the Examiner indicated that "honeycomb-like structure" is unclear. Those portions have been replaced with "close-packed hexagonal structure". Also, "light interpreter" referenced in the brief description of Fig. 5 has been deleted.

The Examiner also objected to descriptions in the specification relating to process s107, namely modifying the ends of the rounded surface of the transparent segments to different shapes. The Examiner indicated that the description was not clear as to when this process is performed, i.e., before or after incorporation into a bundle, and how individual ends would be isolated from others during this modification process.

The specification has been amended to clearly describe that this modification process is after incorporation into a bundle, and in particular after processes s102, s104, and s106. Further, the amended specification clarifies that each of the ends of the segments are modified together, not individually, and that Figs. 4A, 4B, 8A, 8B, and 9 show a single segment or a portion of the segments simply for clarity. Applicant believes these are all supported in the application as filed, and thus, no new matter is added.

The drawings were objected to. Fig. 1 is amended to clarify the surfaces of the segment sheet and to add process s107, which is described in the written description, but inadvertently omitted in the figure. Formal figures are included for all the figures, in part to comply with 37 CFR 1.121(d) and issues raised by the Examiner regarding shading, line art, and lettering. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8, 11-13, 15-17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), and claims 9, 10, and 18 are rejected

IN THE DRAWINGS

Replacement sheets for Figs. 1-9 are included in this response.

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under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claim 14 is objected to. Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, and 14 are amended. No new matter is added. The rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Objections to Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 13 were rejected because of various informalities, and claim 14 was objected to as depending on a rejected base claim.

Claim 1 was rejected as being unclear whether transparent members in the bundle were bonded or fused together, or alternatively, bound together by mechanical means external to the bundle. Claim 1 is amended to recite “a bonded or fused bundle”, support for which is provided at Applicant’s specification at paragraph [0031], and thus no new matter is added.

Claim 2 was rejected for reciting an “end” of a sheet. As suggested by the Examiner, claim 2 is amended to recite a “surface” of the sheet.

Claims 4 and 13 were rejected for the term “honeycomb-like” structure. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 4 and 13 are amended to recite “close-packed hexagonal” structure.

Claim 14 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent including all the limitations of the base claim. Claim 14 is rewritten with the limitations of amended base claim 13. Thus, claim 14 is now allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 11-13, 15-17, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woodcock (US 3,216,807). In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner

states that Woodcock discloses “heating the at least one sheet of optically transparent member segments 26 (col. 7, ln. 8-12, 56-60; FIG. 11) to form lens segments F.”

Woodcock discloses forming fiber optical face plates. (Woodcock, col. 1, lines 9-14 and col. 2, lines 51-64). In particular, Woodcock discloses assembling fibers 20 into a hexagonal-shaped channel 30. (Woodcock, col. 3, lines 32-56; Fig. 3). The fibers 20 are then fused together to form an integral assembly 32. (Woodcock, col. 4, lines 52-56; Fig. 4). The assembly with the fibers is then drawn down in size to form an elongated multi-fiber structure 66. (Woodcock, col. 5, lines 71-75; Fig. 5). Light conducting elements 26 are then formed by cutting structure 66 to a desired length. Elements 26 are then assembled into tube 68, which is then heated or fused together to form face plate F. (Woodcock, col. 6, lines 69-74, col. 7, lines 7-12 and 55-62; Figs. 7-11). Finally, “one or both sides or faces of the face plate F may be finished flat or meniscus in shape in accordance with the particular requirements of the cathode ray tube or other device in conjunction with which they are to be used.” (Woodcock, col. 8, lines 35-40). Thus, Woodcock discloses forming a flat optic face plate, where the heating is to fuse the individual fibers or the fiber assemblies together.

In contrast, claim 1 has been amended to recite “heating the at least one sheet of optically transparent member segments to form individually curved lens segments.” Support for the amendment is found in Applicant’s specification at Figs. 3A, 3B, 4B, 6-9 and corresponding text, and thus no new matter is added. The method of claim 1 provides a microlens array, in which each individual lens segment in the array has a curved lens portion. The heating of Applicant’s invention forms the curved surface on each lens portion.

Thus, for the reasons discussed above, Applicant believes claim 1 is patentable over Woodcock.

Claims 2-8, 11, and 12 depend on claim 1 and are thus patentable over Woodcock for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to recite “heating at least one of said ends to form individually curved lens surfaces on said ends”. Thus, for reasons similar to claim 1 above, claim 13 is patentable over Woodcock.

Claims 15-17 and 19-20 depend on claim 13 and are thus patentable over Woodcock for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/103(a)

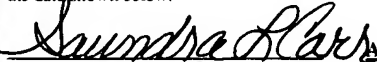
Dependent claims 9, 10, and 18 were rejected as being anticipated by or obvious over Woodcock. Since these claims depend on claims 1 or 13, claims 9, 10, and 18 are patentable over Woodcock for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 13, discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/103(a).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe pending claims 1-20 are allowable, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.



Sandra L. Carr

April 13, 2005
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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